

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office action dated January 20, 2004. The Applicant provides the following remarks in support of this amendment.

The drawings were objected to by the Examiner. Proposed corrected drawings are enclosed herein, which show all of the features recited in the pending claims as specified by the Examiner. Elements 10, 12, 14, 18, 20 and 22 have been added. These elements are supported by the specification and claims as filed; therefore no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this objection has now been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, and 12-13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehman et al. (USP 4,672,365) in view of Brian Peter Rogers (UK Patent 2 186 468). The Examiner has also indicated that claims 4, 7, 11 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant traverses the instant rejections but has amended the claims in order to expedite allowance of this application.

Applicant has therefore amended claim 1 to include the limitations of former claim 4, which was indicated to have allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claim 4 has been correspondingly cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, which depend from claim 1, are likewise in condition for allowance. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1 rather than claim 4, and is also in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also amended claim 8 to include the limitations of former claim 11, which was indicated to have allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claim 11 has been correspondingly cancelled. Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13, which depend from claim 8, are likewise in condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been

amended to depend from claim 8 rather than claim 11, and is also in condition for allowance.

Applicant thus submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with the Applicants' position, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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